

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 22, wherein:

said articulated band comprises a continuous, uninterrupted, endless loop.

4. (Previously Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 3, wherein:

said endless loop comprises a jewelry item selected from a group comprising a necklace, a bracelet, a ring, and

an earring.

5. (Previously Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 22, wherein:

each one of said plurality of magnetic components has the same diametrical extent.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 22, wherein:

each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components has a predetermined diametrical extent; and

said at least annular arrays of ferromagnetic components has a predetermined diametrical extent which is substantially the same as said predetermined diametrical extent of each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components.

11. (Previously Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 22, wherein:

each one of said magnetic components has a coating disposed upon respective external surface portions thereof which is selected from the group comprising protective and decorative coatings.

12. (Original) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 11, wherein:

said coating is selected from the group comprising gold, silver, platinum, copper, chromium, rhodium, plastics, nickel, and enamels.

13. (Previously Amended) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 22, wherein:

each one of said magnetic components, and each one of said ferromagnetic components, has a coating disposed upon the respective external surface portions thereof which is selected from the group comprising protective and decorative coatings.

14. (Original) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 13, wherein:

said coating is selected from the group comprising gold, silver, platinum, copper, chromium, rhodium, plastics, nickel, and enamels.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) An articulated band, comprising:

a plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components having surface contour means defined upon each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components for defining point-to-point contact loci permitting universal rotational movement, around three mutually orthogonal axes, of each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components with respect to an adjacent one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components when each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components is operatively connected to an adjacent one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components;

first and second opposite magnetic poles defined within opposite ends of each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components so as to permit any one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components to be magnetically attracted toward and operatively connected to any other one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components when a first one of said opposite

magnetic poles of said any one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components is operatively engaged with a second one of said opposite magnetic poles of said any other one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components; and

a plurality of ferromagnetic components magnetically attracted and attached to at least one pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components as a result of being disposed within at least one annular array defined around at least one of said point-to-point contact loci defined between said at least one pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components magnetically connected together at said point-to-point contact loci.

23. (Previously Presented) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 22, wherein:

said plurality of ferromagnetic components, disposed within said at least one annular array defined around said at least one of said point-to-point contact loci defined between said at least one pair of adjacent ones of said plural-

ity of spherically-configured magnetic components magnetically connected together at said point-to-point contact loci, are disposed within a plurality of annular arrays defined around a plurality of said point-to-point contact loci defined between a plurality of pairs of adjacent ones of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components magnetically connected together at said point-to-point contact loci.

24. (Previously Presented) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 23, wherein:

each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components has a predetermined diametrical extent; and

each one of said plurality of annular arrays of ferromagnetic components has a predetermined diametrical extent which is substantially the same as said predetermined diametrical extent of each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components.



25. (Previously Presented) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 23, wherein:

said plurality of annular arrays of said ferromagnetic components, defined around said plurality of said point-to-point contact loci defined between said plurality of pairs of adjacent ones of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components magnetically connected together at said plurality of point-to-point contact loci, are respectively disposed around each one of said point-to-point contact loci defined between each pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components magnetically connected together at said point-to-point contact loci.

26. (Previously Presented) The articulated band as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:

each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components has a predetermined diametrical extent; and

each one of said plurality of annular arrays of ferromagnetic components has a predetermined diametrical ex-

tent which is substantially the same as said predetermined diametrical extent of each one of said plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components.